A Meeker Burner With Auxiliary Flame For Bacteriological Use

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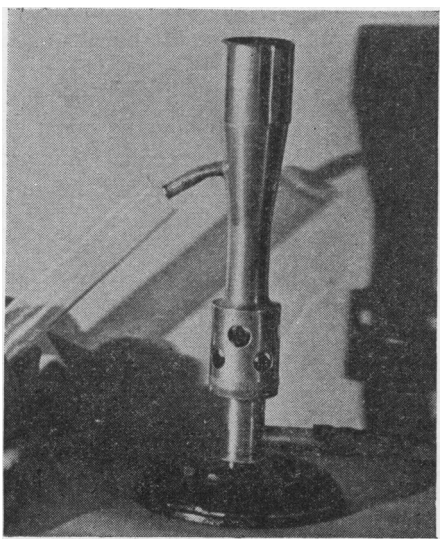
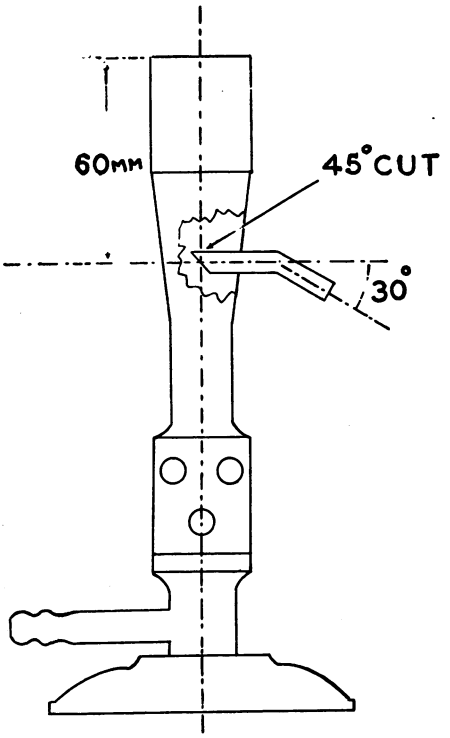
THE usual flaming of the mouth of a tube or flask containing bacteriological culture media will not satisfactorily remove the fibers of cotton which frequently adhere inside the neck during the tubing and sterilization. In work with pathogenic organisms, or in disinfectant testing, the infection of these fibers when the medium is inoculated offers a possibility of danger to the worker as well as inaccurate results in the experiment. An attachment of the type illustrated offers an easily constructed device for the burning of any cotton fibers inside the neck of a test tube or flask.

The burner is constructed from a Meeker burner and a short length of ¼" copper or brass tubing. The piece of tubing should be about 3" long, with one end cut perpendicular and the other at 45° to the axis. The tube is bent at an angle of 30° at about





1" from the end in the manner shown in the diagram. The tube is soldered into a ¼" hole in the burner about 2⅜" from the top. The end cut at 45° should be at the center of the burner.

The side arm deflects a portion of the gas-air mixture which gives a flame similar to that of a microburner but deflected downward at an angle convenient for use. A small stopper or cap may be placed over this tube when the auxiliary flame is not desired.